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SUBJECT Re-equipment of AAA Units with New 57 mm Guns

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1. Sometime in October 1950 in the Officers' Club in Naumburg (5109N-1149E), a lecture was held for the senior officers of the 57th Gds Rifle Div. The lecturer was a colonel from Moscow and his subject was the international political situation. During the discussion which developed after the lecture, the Colonel mentioned that the Soviet Government is taking all necessary measures to modernize Soviet war equipment. At this time some of the officers attending the lecture brought up the problem of AA defense of the Soviet Army in Germany and the obsolete weapons to be used against modern jet planes. The lecturer answered that in this respect the military in Germany should not worry since the Soviet armament scientists had succeeded in designing and manufacturing new powerful weapons and equipment for defense against this new phase of aerial warfare.

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2. In November 1950, Major Nikolay Nikolayevich Tarasenko was appointed battery CO of the 932d AAA Bn (57th Gds Rifle Division), in Naumburg. He had arrived from Vyborg (6043N-2844E) where he had served as a battery commander of a tactical AAA battalion belonging to a rifle division [designation unknown]. During private conversations concerning the 37 mm AA gun, Tarasenko told his new fellow officers that he was very much surprised to find in the Soviet Army in Germany old and obsolete AA "rifles on four wheels" (sic). At the same time, AAA units in the USSR were about to be equipped with new 57 mm AA guns designed to cope with jet fighters and bombers. Although at the time of his departure his battalion in Vyborg had not yet got them, they were expected to arrive any time, and the officers of his battalion had already undergone a familiarization course on these guns. This course was held in an artillery park in Vyborg where there were several of these new 57 mm AA guns covered with canvas. Upon briefing the students on this gun, the instructor removed the canvas and showed the gun to the officers present.

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They were not allowed, however, to get too close to the gun to try to man it. [redacted] the 57 mm AA gun has a long barrel like a 57 mm AT gun, and is equipped with a muzzle brake. The four-wheel mount of this gun is very similar to that of the 37 mm AA gun. The gun is equipped with a co-axial AAMG 12.7 mm attached in a fixed position above the gun's barrel. There is only one seat for the gunner, instead of two as with the 37 mm gun. The ammunition clip provides for 10 shells (instead of five as in the 37 mm), plated into it in an alternating (zig-zag) manner, on the same principle as is done in the magazine of the TT pistol. As explained by the instructor, the new 57 mm AA gun has the following characteristics:

(a) The gun is designed to deal with high speed jet planes against which the 37 mm AA gun with its muzzle velocity of 880-900 m/sec, and the 85 mm AA gun with the muzzle velocity of 900-950 m/sec, proved to be inadequate;

(b) the muzzle velocity of the gun is 1200 m/sec;

(c) the gun may be operated with a modernized type of a gunlaying radar set, or without it;

(d) the firing speed of this gun, as compared with the 37 mm and 85 mm is considerably increased;

(e) the AAMG 12.7 mm may be used simultaneously with the gun, or independently;

(f) the gun's traction is GAZ-53 truck (prime-mover). This is a new 2 1/2 ton truck, four-wheel drive, very similar to a Chevrolet. It is considerably better than ZIS trucks but still not as good as Studebaker. [redacted]

(g) the T/O of the 57 mm AA battery is increased since the gunlaying radar set is an organic part of this battery. According to the instructor, the modernized gunlaying radar set belonging to this battery looks similar to the PUAZO-3 set.

(h) [redacted]

[redacted] each of these guns within a battery could be operated automatically by the gunlaying radar set.

The officers attending this familiarization lecture were not allowed to make any notes, and no manual for the gun was made available. The instructor however, had some mimeographed material on it.

3. In June 1951, Lt Nikolay Ivanovich Yerofeyev was transferred from the 932 AAA Bn to Tarasenko's former AAA Bn in Vvhere. [redacted]

[redacted] his battalion was scheduled to receive new 57 mm guns during the coming week, and that the EM of his battery at that time were undergoing training and familiarization with these new guns.

4. Lt Luchin was serving with a divisional tactical AAA 37 mm Bn in Kushka (3516N-6224E), on the Afghanistan border in the Turkestan Military District until December 1950, at which time he was transferred to the 932 AAA Bn.

[redacted] his former 37 mm AAA Bn in Kushka was scheduled very soon to get new modern 57 mm guns with gunlaying radar sets. (In addition to this AAA Bn there was in Kushka, one AAA Reg belonging to a Tk or Mez Div, and some AAA units of the territorial PVO).

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5. [REDACTED] 50X1

AAA units stationed on the territories of peripheral military districts in the USSR, became of course a subject of many conversations among officers of the 932d Bn. The general opinion in this respect was that the Ministry of Armed Forces is reorganizing, as a first priority, the territorial air-defense system in the USSR frontier regions providing them with a modern AA equipment against jet planes.

6. In connection with this [REDACTED] it is of interest to note that AAA officers in Germany, on the so-called "Soviet outposts in the West", realizing on one hand that the weapons with which their units at present are equipped, are obsolete and unable to cope with modern planes, and knowing on the other hand that the AAA units within the territorial USSR have been equipped with new modern guns, are quite disappointed and resent such a policy. The rearmament of AAA units in Germany is a common topic of conversation among officers, and there are practically no officers' meetings, lectures, inspections, or visits from high ranking military or political persons, at which time this problem is not approached and dissatisfaction expressed. It is generally believed that the Ministry does not intend to ship any of the new equipment to Germany where it could easily become a target of western intelligence and thus cease to be a military secret. 50X1

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